COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open a branch post office at Nandla village in Shimla District so that adjacent villages can also be benefited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) As per the Departmental norms for opening of branch post offices, proposed post office should not be less than 3 kilometres away from the nearest existing post office and the percentage of income to cost of the proposed post office is required minimum 15% in hilly areas. However, the distance of village Nandla from Jangla sub post office is 1.5 kms. and anticipated percentage of income to cost of proposed office is 8.51%. The opening of a branch post office at village Nandla in Shimla district is, therefore, not justified under the existing norms.

Software offshore projects

1181. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the persistent tension between India and Pakistan has created a cloud of uncertainty in the field of software offshore projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.